GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:350
ANSWERED ON:07.04.2003
EVALUATION OF GLOBAL WATER RESOURCES
RAM VILAS PASWAN;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the recent report of the United Nations on the evaluation of global water resources placing the country's rank at 120th among 122 nations in the world in terms of quality of water available for citizens;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the strategy contemplated by the Government to improve the quality of water in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 350 TO BE ANSWERED IN SABHA ON 7.4.2003 REGARDING EVALUATION OF GLODBAL WATER RESOURCES.

(a) Yes, Sir and Madam.

(b) As per the 'United nations World Water Development Report- Water for People, Water for Life', India has been ranked 120th among 122 nations in the world in terms of quality of water. Belgium is at 122nd rank. The evaluation made in ranking has not been explained.

(c) The National Water Policy (2002) emphasizes on water. The policy provides that both surface water and ground water should be regularly monitored for quality and effluents should be treated to acceptable levels and standards before discharging them into natural streams. The policy further provides that principle of 'polluter pays' should be followed in management of polluted water.

Several steps have been taken for improvement/restoration of quality of water bodies in the country and some of them are:

(i) Ensuring industries, located on the banks of rivers and lakes, set up the requisite pollution control facilities.

(ii) Issuance of Directives to the defaulting industries for preventing discharge of untreated waste water into water bodies.

(iii) Formulation and implementation of National River and Lake Conservation Plan for restoration of water quality of the rivers and lakes.